

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 09440 161557Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 L-03

/041 W

-----074634 170358Z /70

R 161404Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1451

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 9440

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, SHUM, GH

SUBJ: GOG QUASHES SUITS AGAINST GOON SQUAD

REF: ACCRA 7802

1. IN A DECEMBER 15 DECREE, GOG PREVENTED COURTS FROM HEARING SUITS BROUGHT BY GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION AGAINST THUGS WHO DISRUPTED THE OCTOBER 12 RALLY AGAINST UNION GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). AS REPORTED IN PRESS, UNION GOVERNMENT (CIVIL PROCEEDINGS) DECREE OF 1977 SAYS INTER ALIA THAT "NO COURT SHALL ENTERTAIN ANY CIVIL PROCEEDINGS OR ANY ACTION AGAINST ANY PERSON IN ANY MANNER FOLLOWING OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SYMPOSIUM, LECTURE OR RALLY HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 1977 AT THE ACCRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSAL OF UNION GOVERNMENT FOR GHANA OR ANY MATTER CONNECTED WITH IT."

2. COMMENT: IN NOVEMBER THE GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION FILED FOR THREE WRITS OF SUMMONS SEEKING INJUNCTIONS AGAINST THE GHANA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL AND THE GA ADANGBE YOUTH ASSOCIATION. IN ONE OF THE WRITS, PLAINTIFFS SOUGHT AN ORDER TO RESTRAIN S.O. LAMPTEY (SPECIAL AIDE TO HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG AND ACCRA REGIONAL CHAIRMAN, GHANA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL), MARY LARYEA (LEADER OF AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 09440 161557Z

INFLUENTIAL ASSOCIATION OF MARKET WOMEN) AND THREE MEN (PRESUMABLY MEMBERS OF THE GOON SQUAD) FROM INTIMIDATING, ASSAULTING OR INTERFERING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL BODIES ASSOCIATION (THE ANTI-UNION GOVERNMENT FORCES) EXERCISING THEIR FUNDAMENTAL CIVIL LIBERTIES. THE GOG DECISION TO QUASH THESE PROCEEDINGS SO BLATANTLY IS SURPRISING; WE FELT IT MORE LIKELY THAT COURT CASES WOULD BE DELAYED

AND STRUNG OUT INDEFINITELY, RATHER THAN HALTED BY FIAT.

3. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE LEFTIST GHANA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL WAS BEHIND THE OCTOBER 12 INCIDENT. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN ONE OF ACHEAMPONG'S STRONGEST ALLIES IN PUSHING FOR UNION GOVERNMENT. LAMPTEY UNDOUBTEDLY EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN BREAKING UP THE RALLY SO VIOLENTLY AND MAY HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY REPRIMANDED BY ACHEAMPONG AS A RESULT. IN ANY CASE, GOG CLEARLY BELIEVES DEFENDANTS WOULD NOT FARE WELL IN COURT AND HAS THUS MOVED TO NIP LEGAL PROCESS IN BUD. WE ASSUME THIS ACTION WILL FURTHER INFURIATE BAR ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN OPPOSED TO ACHEAMPONG'S RULE, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY BE POWERLESS TO RETALIATE. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA09440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770470-0698
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771249/aaaabphj.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7dd04c02-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ACCRA 7802
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 212904
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG QUASHES SUITS AGAINST GOON SQUAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, SHUM, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7dd04c02-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009